fact that a number of distributorships had already been opened in Madhya Pradesh before the commencement of the reservation policy.

Opening of LPG distributorships in different parts of the country including Madhya Pradesh is a continuous process and 25% of such distributorships in Madhya Pradesh will continue to be reserved for SC/ST category.

[Englisn]

Brain Drain

2921. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 68 on July 28, 1997 and state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to a news-item captioned "Brain drain a cause for concern in the D.R.D.O." appearing in 'The Times of India' dated May 7, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to make coordinated efforts with other Union Ministries, Institutes of Higher and Technical Education and Industrial Houses to collect figures of Indian emigrants who have left India for ever either for jobs or higher education by the end of March, 1996; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) About 3% of total strength of scientists/ engineers resigned from D.R.D.O. during last three years. While scientists/engineers in D.R.D.O. have challenging tasks, certain percentage of them have joined multinational companies for better compensation (attractive salary and perks).

(c) and (d) the Programme of Action 1992 based on National Policy on Education views the so-called brain-drain as a inevitable global phenomenon with no cause for alarm.

[Translation]

Narmada Project

2922. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA :
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Narmada Project is likely to be completed by 1998;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any memorandum has been received by the Union Government to change the height of Narmada Dam;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Sardar Sarovar (Narmada) Project is planned to be completed by 2000 A.D.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. There have been representations for lowering the height of Sardar Sarovar Dam. However, height of Sardar Sarovar Dam has been determined by Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal (NWDT) under its Award and the validity period of the Award is upto 2024 A.D. (45 years after Gazette Notification in 1979).)

[English]

Majuli Island

2923. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Brahmaputra Board has prepared a Master Plan during 1996-97 to train the river system in Assam including desiltation measures;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the amount earmarked for control of erosion and flood protection during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(c) whether any specific scheme for protection of Majuli Island is proposed to be taken up during the current plan period;

(d) if so, the details of the scheme including the amount allocated in the current financial year and for the remaining period of the current Five Year Plan;

(e) whether the Government have asked any agency for hydraulic model study of Majuli Island and the Brahmaputra river system; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?